

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
INFO AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

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EXDIS OUAGA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE ONLY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, LI, OAU

SUBJECT: U.S. ASSISTANCE TO GOL FOR 1979 OAU SUMMIT
CONFERENCE

REF: MONROVIA 3312

1. STATE/AID HELD MEETING LAST WEEK TO EXPLORE
POSSIBILITIES OF AID TO LIBERIA IN SUPPORT OF OAU
CONFERENCE. ROBERTSFIELD AIRPORT LOAN STILL HAS \$80,000
IN FUNDS LEFT. THE TERMINAL DISBURSEMENT DATE ON LOAN
PASSED A YEAR AGO, AND ALTHOUGH FUNDS MIGHT STILL BE
AVAILABLE FOR NAVIGATIONAL AIDS, THIS WOULD REQUIRE
AN AMENDED AUTHORIZATION. ANY ADDITIONAL FUNDS WOULD
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REQUIRE CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.

2. CABLE FOLLOWS SHORTLY ON ROBERTSFIELD SERVICE
FACILITIES.

3. OTHER POSSIBILITIES DISCUSSED AT MEETING, FOR
INDIRECTLY SUPPORTING CONFERENCE, INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING.

YOUR COMMENTS WOULD BE APPRECIATED. (A) MEDICAL FACILITIES. IF A NEW HEALTH PROGRAM IS INITIATED -- AND WE UNDERSTAND THIS MAY BE DELAYED -- EQUIPMENT FOR A HEALTH FACILITY AT CONFERENCE MIGHT BE INCLUDED.

INCLUSION OF SUCH A PROGRAM IN A RURAL HEALTH PROGRAM, HOWEVER, WOULD STICK OUT LIKE A SORE THUMB WHEN CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION SUBMITTED. AID'S PAST EXPERIENCE WITH MOBILE CLINICS IS NOT GOOD. DO YOU WISH TO PURSUE THIS APPROACH? (B) PROGRAM LOAN. PROGRAM LOAN UNDER SECTION 106 WOULD PROVIDE BOTH FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND BUDGETARY RELIEF. GIVEN NON-DEVELOPMENTAL CONTEXT GOL REQUEST, SUCH AN AID RESPONSE WOULD BE EXTREMELY HARD TO SELL WITHIN AID AND IN INTERAGENCY FORA. STRONG CONGRESSIONAL OPPOSITION IS ALSO PROBABLE. (C) PL-480 TITLE I. EMBASSY'S REQUEST FOR SMALL TITLE I RICE PROGRAM WAS NOT INCLUDED IN THE ABS. LIBERIA BUYS 87 PERCENT OF ITS RICE COMMERCIALLY FROM THE U.S., AND THERE IS NO ANTICIPATED NEED FOR SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED RICE IMPORTS IN FY 79 AND 80. USDA BELIEVES A TITLE I PROGRAM WOULD DISRUPT THE COMMERCIAL MARKET, AND THUS REQUIRE A PRESIDENTIAL WAIVER OF THE USUAL MARKETING REQUIREMENT. A REQUEST FROM THE GOL WOULD BE CONSIDERED, HOWEVER. (D) SECURITY SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE. FY 79 SSA IN AFRICA WILL BE LIMITED TO SOUTHERN AFRICA. FYI: STATE IS CONSIDERING MAKING A REQUEST FOR SSA IN FY 80 TO BE USED IN SELECTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COUNTRIES OUTSIDE SOUTHERN AFRICA, INCLUDING POSSIBLY LIBERIA. HOWEVER, THIS ISSUE IS AT EARLY STAGE OF DELIBERATION, AND OUTCOME CANNOT BE PREDICTED AT PRESENT. END FYI.

CHRISTOPHER

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